

Remarks

Consideration and entry of the foregoing amendments are requested.

The amendments to the specification are to correct readily discernible grammatical errors and to correct other residual errors from the translation of the Japanese priority document into English. No new matter is submitted. The review of the specification was in response to the Examiner's suggestion on page 2 of the Office action.

Claims 20-55 are pending, and all the pending claims are amended herein. Claims 1-19 were previously canceled, and are so indicated herein.

All the pending claims were amended as noted herein to remove the term "off-axis." This particular amendment made to the claims addresses issue (a) on page 3 of the Office action.

Claims 21 and 29 were amended to remove the term "maximum," in reply to the issue (b) on page 3 of the Office action.

Claim 55 is amended in part to address issue (c) on page 3 and issue 7 on page 4 of the Office action.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, is requested.

Claim 20 also is amended to recite that the intermediate image is of a predetermined area of the object, wherein the predetermined area is displaced from the optical axis. Support for this amendment is on page 12, lines 20-27, of the instant specification, which states that, in the subject embodiment, the projection-optical system has a rectangular aperture "a" having a predetermined area (defined by predetermined length and width). This area is displaced from the optical axis of the catadioptric optical system. See FIGS. 1(a) and 1(c).

The preamble of claim 28 is amended by the addition of "optical" for consistency with its dependent claims. Claims 28 and 55 also are amended to recite, similarly to claim 20, that the image is of a predetermined area of the object.

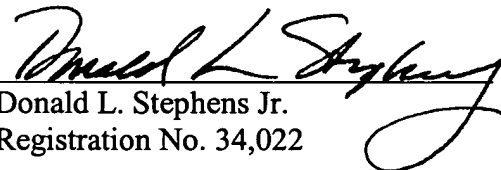
In reply to issue 9 in the Office action, included herewith is a terminal disclaimer.

All the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and early action to such end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By


Donald L. Stephens Jr.
Registration No. 34,022

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 226-7391
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446